

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. - 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of 18 to 120 nucleotides wherein the sequence of the nucleic acid comprises:

- (a) at least 18 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NOS: ~~861, 862, or 863~~;
- (b) an RNA equivalent of (a);
- (c) a sequence at least ~~62/87~~71.3% identical to (a) or (b); or
- (d) the complement of any one of (a)-(c).

22. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the sequence of the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3588.

23. (currently amended) ~~The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the sequence of the nucleic acid consists of~~An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) SEQ ID NO: ~~861, 862, or 863~~;
- (b) an RNA equivalent of (a);
- (c) a sequence at least ~~62/87~~71.3% nucleotides identical to (a) or (b); ~~or~~and
- (d) the complement of any one of (a)-(c).

24. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid consists of 18 to 24 nucleotides.

25. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

26. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the nucleic acid is capable of modulating expression of a target gene.

27. (currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid is at least ~~45/21~~71.5% complementary to a binding site sequence of 18 to 24 nucleotides of a target gene and wherein the binding site sequence is located in an untranslated region of RNA encoded by the target gene.

28. (previously presented) A vector comprising an HCMV nucleic acid, wherein the HCMV nucleic acid consists of the nucleic acid of claim 21.

29. (previously presented) A probe comprising an HCMV nucleic acid, wherein the HCMV nucleic acid consists of the nucleic acid of claim 21.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)